AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A fuse structure comprising:

a laminate comprising a first layer and a second layer, said first layer having a lower electrical resistance than said second layer, wherein said second layer comprises:

a first region adapted to be coupled to a voltage source;

a second region adapted to be coupled to a ground; and

a current flow region disposed between said first and second regions, wherein said current flow region is uncurved between said first and second regions and wherein said current flow region defines a recess in the plane of said second layer, said recess extending from one side of said current flow region into said current flow region, ~~The fuse structure of Claim 1~~ wherein said recess extends more than approximately halfway across said current flow region.

6. (Currently Amended) The fuse structure of Claim 5 [[1]] wherein said recess is substantially symmetrical in shape about an axis that is essentially orthogonal to the direction of current flow.

7. (Currently Amended) The fuse structure of Claim 5 [[1]] wherein said recess is substantially triangular in shape.

8. (Currently Amended) The fuse structure of Claim 5 [[1]] wherein said recess is substantially trapezoidal in shape.

9. (Currently Amended) The fuse structure of Claim 5 [[1]] wherein said recess defines a substantially straight edge extending essentially orthogonally into said current flow region, wherein said edge faces toward the direction of current flow.

10. (Currently Amended) The fuse structure of Claim 5 [[1]] wherein said recess defines a substantially straight edge extending essentially orthogonally into said current flow region, wherein said edge faces away from the direction of current flow.

11. (Currently Amended) The fuse structure of Claim 5 [[1]] wherein said fuse structure is one of a plurality of fuse structures, wherein information is encoded by said fuse structures according to which ones of said fuse structures are blown.

Claims 12-24. (Canceled).

25. (Previously Presented) A fuse structure comprising:

a laminate comprising a first layer and a second layer, said first layer having a lower electrical resistance than said second layer, wherein a gap in said first layer separates a first part of said first layer from a second part of said layer, said gap bridged by said second layer so that current flowing in said first part is directed into said second layer, and wherein said second layer comprises:

a first region adapted to be coupled to a voltage source;

a second region adapted to be coupled to a ground; and

a current flow region disposed between said first and second regions, said current flow region having a configuration that defines a recess in the plane of said second layer extending from a first side

of said current flow region into said current flow region, wherein a second side of said current flow region defines a substantially straight edge.

26. (Original) The fuse structure of Claim 25 wherein said recess extends more than approximately halfway across said current flow region.

27. (Original) The fuse structure of Claim 25 wherein said recess is substantially symmetrical in shape about an axis that is essentially orthogonal to the direction of current flow.

28. (Original) The fuse structure of Claim 25 wherein said recess is substantially triangular in shape.

29. (Original) The fuse structure of Claim 25 wherein said recess is substantially trapezoidal in shape.

30. (Original) The fuse structure of Claim 25 wherein said recess defines a substantially straight edge extending essentially orthogonally into said current flow region, wherein said edge faces toward the direction of current flow.

31. (Original) The fuse structure of Claim 25 wherein said recess defines a substantially straight edge extending essentially orthogonally into said current flow region, wherein said edge faces away from the direction of current flow.

32. (Previously Presented) A method of blowing a fuse, said method comprising:

providing a current through a current flow region of said fuse, said fuse comprising a laminate comprising a first layer and a second layer, wherein said second layer comprises said current flow region, said current flow region having a configuration that defines a recess in the plane of said second layer extending from a first side of said current flow region into said current flow region, wherein a second side of said current flow region defines a substantially straight edge that is parallel to the direction of current flow;

forming a void at a point within said current flow region due to localized heating at said point; and

propagating said void across said current flow region to blow said fuse.

33. (Original) The method of Claim 32 wherein said recess extends more than approximately halfway across said current flow region.

34. (Original) The method of Claim 32 wherein said recess is substantially symmetrical in shape about an axis that is essentially orthogonal to the direction of current flow.

35. (Original) The method of Claim 32 wherein said recess defines a substantially straight edge extending essentially orthogonally into said current flow region.

Claims 36-37. (Canceled).

38. (New) A fuse structure comprising:

a laminate comprising a first layer and a second layer, said first layer having a lower electrical resistance than said second layer, wherein said second layer comprises:

a first region adapted to be coupled to a voltage source;

a second region adapted to be coupled to a ground; and

a current flow region disposed between said first and second regions, wherein said current flow region is uncurved between said first and second regions and wherein said current flow region defines a recess in the plane of said second layer, said recess extending from one side of said current flow region into said current flow region, wherein said recess is substantially triangular in shape.

39. (New) A fuse structure comprising:

a laminate comprising a first layer and a second layer, said first layer having a lower electrical resistance than said second layer, wherein said second layer comprises:

a first region adapted to be coupled to a voltage source;

a second region adapted to be coupled to a ground; and

a current flow region disposed between said first and second regions, wherein said current flow region is uncurved between said first and second regions and wherein said current flow region defines a recess in the plane of said second layer, said recess extending from one side of said current flow region into said current flow region, wherein said recess is substantially trapezoidal in shape.

40. (New) A fuse structure comprising:

a laminate comprising a first layer and a second layer, said first layer having a lower electrical resistance than said second layer, wherein said second layer comprises:

a first region adapted to be coupled to a voltage source;

a second region adapted to be coupled to a ground; and

a current flow region disposed between said first and second regions, wherein said current flow region is uncurved between said first and second regions and wherein said current flow region defines a recess in the plane of said second layer, said recess extending from one side of said current flow region into said current flow region, wherein said recess defines a substantially straight edge extending essentially orthogonally into said current flow region, wherein said edge faces toward the direction of current flow.

41. (New) A fuse structure comprising:

a laminate comprising a first layer and a second layer, said first layer having a lower electrical resistance than said second layer, wherein said second layer comprises:

a first region adapted to be coupled to a voltage source;

a second region adapted to be coupled to a ground; and

a current flow region disposed between said first and second regions, wherein said current flow region is uncurved between said first and second regions and wherein said current flow region defines a recess in the plane of said second layer, said recess extending from one side of said current flow region into said current flow region, wherein said recess defines a substantially straight edge extending essentially orthogonally into said current flow region, wherein said recess defines a substantially straight edge

extending essentially orthogonally into said current flow region, wherein said edge faces away from the direction of current flow.